

**W6OTX****W6ARA****PAARA NEWSLETTER**  
VOLUME 75, NUMBER 3, March 2024**K6OTA****K6YQT**

# PAARAgraphs



The Official Newsletter of the

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

The Friendliest Club Around

Celebrating 87 years as an *active* amateur radio club—*Since 1937*<http://www.paara.org/>

## Rescued Thanks to Radio: Rescue Beacons and how Search and Rescue Forces Find Them

**Joshua Edwards, KO6ASM**

ELTs, PLBs, EPIRBs and other beacons are in wide use in aviation, maritime activities, military, and outdoor enthusiasts. We will discuss how these beacons function, how the national SAR infrastructure works, and how pilots and ground teams prosecute these signals to rescue those in need.

Joshua Edwards is a Senior Mission Pilot with Civil Air Patrol – the U.S. Air Force Auxiliary. CAP is responsible for most inland SAR in the U.S. as well as Disaster Response, National Security, and other missions. Maj Edwards has been flying with CAP for 17 years and has amassed over 4500hrs of flight time. He has been credited with over 14 finds of downed aircraft and missing hikers. Joshua is also an officer in the Navy Reserve, currently serving with SEAL Team 17. In his civilian career, has over 25 years of experience in technology and has worked at Microsoft, Amazon, as well as several startups. He is currently a senior leader at Meta focused on AI and mixed reality. Joshua earned his Technician and General in 2023 and primarily enjoys POTA and SOTA activities. He is originally from Dhahran, Saudi Arabia and currently resides in Palo Alto.”

**This meeting will be a  
Hybrid Meeting  
Zoom and In Person**

Time: Mar 1, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time  
Please check <https://www.paara.org> for  
Zoom Details

## Upcoming Events

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mar 1***</li> <li>Apr 5</li> <li>May 3</li> </ul>	PAARA General Meeting, 7:00 PM *** Zoom and In Person Meeting
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Mar 20</li> <li>Apr 17</li> <li>May 15</li> </ul>	Board Meeting, 7:00 PM. Everyone welcome! Zoom Meeting, eMail President for details!



## President's Corner

March 2024

I'd like to thank Rob, KC6TYD, for running the February meeting and Kristen, K6WX, for giving two wonderful presentations. I managed to listen to the audio recording of the meeting through the meager network internet pipe I had. It sounded like everyone enjoyed both of Kristen's talks. It was wonderful to learn so many youths came to the meeting. I hope they continue to find value in coming to future PAARA meetings.



Rob will once again be hosting another meeting on April 5th. My XYL and I will be heading to Texas to witness the total Eclipse of the Sun on April 8th. You'll be able to enjoy a partial eclipse (~30% coverage of the sun) from the

*(Pres — Continued on page 4)*

## Question of the Month

What differences and similarities are there between a capacitor and an inductor?

Give examples of what each is used for.

## My Life in Ham Radio

**By Ron Chester, W6AZ in Decatur, IL and  
 HS0ZMD in Thailand.**

As I wrote in an earlier edition of this newsletter, I was introduced to PAARA by my good friend, Vic Black, AB6SO SK, at a monthly meeting of the Norcal QRP Club. Vic signed me up as a member of PAARA that day at the Norcal meeting and I paid my first annual dues to him right then. I'm writing this time to thank the Board for the great honor they bestowed on me with the Lifetime Membership in PAARA!!

PAARA has given me a whole new experience in life, as I was never active in a ham club when I first got active with ham radio in 1959. Once I was in PAARA, I discovered what I had been missing with a monthly gathering of like minds in ham radio, the most amazing hobby known to mankind. Originally my experience came from listening to the shortwave bands with the Ocean Hopper I built from a kit and getting invaluable instruction from Ed Hungness, a general class ham, K9GCM, in my neighborhood in Decatur, IL.

Once I realized that the economy of California was not going to change for the better, it was my wife, Supattra, who made the amazing statement, "Okay, we move here!" as we were driving around my old paper route in Decatur, IL on the day after burying the body of my father, who had passed during his 101st year in this world. Dad was the one who first helped me learn CW, which he learned in the Boy Scouts, and which we called Morse Code back in 1959-60. He helped me string up my first 40m dipole, running from the corner of our second-story roof to a branch in our neighbor's backyard tree. It was my father's genius as a working electrical engineer who showed me how we could terminate the end of a dipole by running it through a pulley and then to a single brick swinging in the air in that tree below that pulley. And that antenna worked just fine, allowing me to work tons of Novice contacts on 40m and 15m.

Ed had given me a rock-solid introduction to ham radio. He is only a year older than me, but he had been an active ham for a few years and was living through the joys of the greatest sun-

spot cycle ever. He would race home from our junior high school to work DX from all over the world from the attic of his childhood home just a mile or so from mine. He taught me everything important I needed to know to get a great start in this wonderful new world. I'm now the oldest I've ever been in my whole life and ham radio is still with me, bigger than ever, because of Ed and then PAARA. Both Ed and PAARA are still part of my life, but Ed now, W0R JW, lives on a lake in Michigan and we often stay in touch with messages sent over wires. But we both know that messages sent at the speed of light through the sky are the real magical ones!

I spent my career in accounting, overseeing the spending and safeguarding the assets of companies and nonprofits, one thing I'm really good at. My predecessor as Treasurer was Bob Korte, KD6KYT, who made the smart move of putting PAARA's books onto a computer. Bob didn't spend his career in accounting, so when our then President, Andreas Junge, N6NU, asked me if I could take over the Treasurer job, Bob seemed happy enough to hand the job over to me. In business, the folks in accounting are mostly ignored, except on payday. But I had a feeling that PAARA could be different, due to a unique situation: a very popular raffle that had been expanded and nurtured by Jim Rice, K6AK. I had a suspicion that if we managed that income stream well, PAARA could be financially secure long after I was no longer in California. I was right.

So, I agreed to do a job that was really easy for me. And look at us now! The joy in it for me was being part of the team at PAARA. There is a lot of magic that can happen at PAARA. When I was on the Board, there were a lot of good people on that Board, year after year after year. I was very lucky to be in just the right job for me for around two decades and to be able to help PAARA with skills I had learned in my work.

I encourage everyone in PAARA to find their happy place in the club too. Are there some unique skills that you could use to help out the club? If so, please offer your help. If you don't know what you might be able to offer, but you'd

*(My Life — Continued on page 3)*

*(My Life — Continued from page 2)*

like to help, then have a chat with Jim Thielemann, K6SV, our Prez, or anyone on the Board, and discuss ways in which you could help out. Make yourself part of the Team! PAARA is a really excellent club, but it can always get better and the way it gets better is from increased participation among the members.

One bright idea, well implemented can have a tremendous impact on the future of a club like PAARA. Take the raffle, for example. When I first started attending monthly PAARA meetings, they would raffle off two or three items, really just token prizes. When Jim Rice, N6AK, was Vice President of the club, he got a bright idea to upgrade the prizes in quality and cost. This produced a revolutionary change for the better in the club, as the prizes that we raffled off got better and better. This had a positive impact on the attendance at meetings and when he had the idea for super nice raffle prizes at the December meetings, we had very large attendance at those meetings. We never sought to make a profit with these raffles, but we did see it was helping with our attendance, so we kept it up. This had a very positive impact on the club and it was the bright idea of one member, executed really well by the club!

In 2017 I had been in California for fifty years and my wife and I really wanted to head back to my hometown in Decatur, IL. It was the perfect time for us to make the big move back to the Midwest. There was only one disadvantage to our plan to make the move. I would not be able to continue my frequent activities with PAARA. That was definitely something that gave me pause! But we knew we'd be able to buy a really nice house in the Midwest and that would be very unlikely in California, so that swung the deal for us.

It's a lot of fun to read back issues of PAARAgaphs, which can be found on the PAARA website. Of course, the people I have already mentioned all appear in those newsletters. But there are many other terrific folks who made PAARA what it is today. Gerry Tucker, K6NV, was loading stuff into his pickup truck near the flea market when I first met him and that blue truck is very well known by the hams in the Bay

Area. Over many years Gerry served as President and most other Officer and Board positions. I knew right away that Gerry had a special way about him. It was clear that he considered PAARA to be a very important part of his life and it soon became the same for me too.

Looking back over past issues of PAARAgaphs, I started noticing the name Fred Canham, K6YT, who appeared in the masthead of the newsletter in the 1970's and all the way to March 2001. He held every position in the club over many years and I began to see him as someone who might have set a great example for our Gerry Tucker, who did much the same in the decades starting in the mid-1970's and continuing during years when I was most active in the club. I never knew Fred Canham, but I know I would have liked him and would have learned from him, just as I did from Gerry. Fred died on 16 Feb 2001 and that fact was reported in March 2001 with a picture of him 30 feet up a tower on Field Day.

One of the early leaders in PAARA who I DID get to know was Wally Porter, K6URO, who was the PAARAgaphs editor when I joined the club and he cranked out a newsletter like clockwork for many years. He was a really nice guy and produced a good product every month, with no problems of any kind. Eventually, he got a little older and he turned over the job to others, but what a gem he was, quietly doing an excellent job for the club for a very long time.

I can even use these back issues to document my own progress in PAARA. When I got my W6AZ vanity call sign, it was reported in the January 2002 issue and when I was appointed to the Board by Andreas Junge, that got reported in the August 2003 issue and when I was elected Treasurer, that was reported in the January 2004 issue. I replaced Bob Korte as Treasurer and if you want to see a great portrait of him, open the January 2003 issue!

I could go on and on. I have been very proud to work with such a great group of people for at least twenty-two years. I know many of you will be carrying on this good work for many decades to come and I'll thank you right now for your good work!

(Pres — Continued from page 1)

BA so make sure the check it out. Just don't look directly at the sun without Eclipse glasses or some non-direct method like a pinhole camera. You can also participate in the event by using your HF radio to assist in the study of what happens to the Ionosphere during an Eclipse. Go to <https://hamsci.org/eclipse> for more information on how you can help.

I think Rob defined what Quartzsite was about and what went on there during the February meeting. The pictures I included in last month's issues showed a little bit of what the event was like. A few wonderful sunsets or sunrises, rain, and interesting activities that went into the night. Of note, the activity that included the image of the moon was Joel's nighttime TV broadcast of the ongoing events Quartzfest.

As most know, I relocated from Quartzfest to Johnson Valley and the King of the Hammers (KOH) off-road races. There are way too many stories from my experiences there to mention them here. For those who aren't aware I volunteer as one of many course marshals. We are assigned to various locations around the race-course at strategic locations to keep people off the course and help racers only when asked. We are in communication with Race Ops advising them of any situations they need to be aware of and responding to requests they may have. All communications are conducted on the Business Bands (around 154 MHz), which means our Ham radios will not work except to listen which requires you to purchase a business band radio. It helps to have a few radio skills and an off-road vehicle to get to your assigned location around the roughly 90-mile "track".

If you haven't checked the Electronics Flea Market (EFM) website recently, <https://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>, you may not have noticed the PAARA sponsored EFM has officially been moved to May 19th. I'll be sending out emails shortly requesting volunteers for the various activities needing assistance. Those activities include but aren't limited to; setup/takedown of the food sales area, selling food and collecting money, vendor ticket sales, purchasing drinks, ice, and doughnuts, and

getting the equipment for the event from the EFM locker and returning it. There are other activities but those are the largest ones. Setup starts at about 5:30 AM and the EFM ends at noon. You should also mention to your friends that the event is being held on the 3rd Saturday of the month due to Mother's Day being on the usual EFM date.

Don't forget Home Brew Night will be during the April 5th meeting. Let's get those projects fixed so you can show everyone what you've been brewing in your spare time. Unlike last year, this event will be an in-person and Zoom meeting.

As mentioned at the February meeting, I refilled the Raffle Paperwork. I received a letter from DOJ stating they were "missing" a raffle income report from 2020. That report is now in the mail to them. In the meantime, raffles are still on hold.

I look forward to seeing all the smiling faces at the March 1st meeting. The meeting will be both an IRL and Zoom meeting.

73, Jim K6SV

Get on the air to keep the airwaves alive!

### A youthful appearance during the February meeting Rob Fenn, KC6TYD

We had a fair turnout of youth at our February meeting. Two new hams, Owen, KO6BYU, 15 years



old, and Ben, KO6CNT, 16 years old, attended for the first time. Alexia, KM6LGG, 16 years old, and Anya, KN6VAC, 15 years old, also attended. You may recognize Alexia's voice as she has been Net Control for the Tuesday Night Youth Net at 7 P.M. on the

(Youth — Continued on page 5)

(Youth — Continued from page 4)

N6NFI Repeater for several years now. The net is sponsored by SBARA. She is also the ARRL East Bay Section Youth Coordinator. Anya has been to a several meetings and inspired many us with her QSO count during last year's Field Day.

Kristen McIntire, K6WX, now the 1st VP of the ARRL, was the guest speaker and summarized some updates of the January Board Meeting. The topic on how to find ways of attracting new youth into the hobby is a concern that the ARRL is aware of. Ideas from club members were offered. Alexia informed us

that she has created a Discord site primarily for youth to connect on the topic of amateur radio. Here is the link and QR code for the East Bay Section you can share if you know of interested young hams:



<https://discord.gg/mkfz5dKTf6>

### Feb 2024 Board Meeting Minutes

In attendance were President Jim Thielemann K6SV, Vice President Rob Fenn KC6TYD, Secretary Ric Hulett N6AJS, Treasurer Margaret Cooper K6WEK, Directors Darryl Presley KI6LDM, Bob Ridenour KN6YGN, Doug Teter KG6LWE and Walt Gyger K6WGY. Also attending was ASVARO rep Clark Martin KK6ISP. A quorum was present. The meeting was called to order at 7:05 pm

□ **President's Report** — I am glad to be back from my 30-day, 3-part excursion, which included Quartzfest, the King of the Hammers offroad contest, and some off-roading. Thanks to Rob KC6TYD for running the February PAARA meeting. We had some new members at the meeting as well.

I received a notice from the ARRL: Bill

S.3690, "Amateur Radio Emergency Preparedness Act", has been introduced in the Senate. This bill would eliminate HOA restrictions on amateur station antennas. Write your Senators and Representative to support this measure!

□ **Secretary's Report** — We currently have 184 PAARA members on the roster! We recently added Dagoberto KN6VUS, Matt K2MXA, Paul KN6HBP, Mickey KO6AXZ and David KE7QWZ to our club: Welcome, all!

Note that there are still a few members yet to renew for 2024: You can renew by check, PayPal, or in cash at the club meeting.

□ **Treasurer's Report** — Our accountant has all the numbers needed for the quarterly and year-end accounting. We need to update filing with the California DOJ to maintain non-profit status. The first quarter 2024 report will be complete by end of April.

□ **VP / Program Chair Report** — Our speaker for March is Joshua Edwards, KO6ASM. His topic is "Rescued Thanks to Radio: Rescue Beacons and how Search and Rescue Forces Find Them".

Robin Shepherd has produced a documentary film "Cat's Whisker & Other Ham Radio Stories" for the Morgan Hill Historical Society. We will show the trailer for this film after the break. Look for our own K6WX in the film!

### Old Business

□ **PAARAgaph** — We have one story for the March PAARAgaph, and nothing for next month. We need! your articles! Share your ham radio stories with the club: It's member content that makes PAARAgaph special. Submit articles to our editor, Jim Thielemann K6SV.

□ **Education Committee** — We have some proposals for the "Question of the Month": Look elsewhere in PAARAgaph. For PAARA in the Park this April, we will have an interesting antenna project.

□ **PAARA flyer / new ham postcard** — Rob

(Minutes — Continued on page 6)

*(Minutes — Continued from page 5)*

has prepared drafts for review. We also have a flyer announcing the PAARA in the Park.

☐ **New Ham postcards** — We have a list of new local licenses for December and January. We will send those hams an invitation to join PAARA.

☐ **Radio and Parts sales** — We have more boxes of random electronic components; these will be for sale (cheap!) at the March club meeting.

☐ **900 MHz repeater status** — Some refurbishment work is ongoing. Thanks to Christopher AI6KG and Mikko AB6RF for their efforts.

The board discussed the increase in electricity cost charged by PG&E to the repeater site owner over the rate we have been paying for our usage. The board directed the treasurer to re-calculate the repeater electricity cost for 2023 using the new rate, and send the site owner a payment to make up the difference.

☐ **Other club information** — Ric has updated the club info for PAARAgaphs. Next on the list is an update of club positions and officers.

☐ **Next club field trip** — Possibilities include the Computer History Museum, or the Winchester Mystery House. We agreed to plan the field trip after Field Day, in July or August.

☐ **Contest Logging** — A proposal was made to replace the club laptop computers to facilitate the use of N1MM as the contest logging program. This will be discussed at future board meetings.

☐ **PAARA in the Park 2024** — This event will be Saturday April 20 at Memorial Park in Cupertino.

We will conduct an antenna build for a simple HF vertical for 12 to 6 meters. Cost of the parts will be a bit more than \$50 per antenna. The board agreed to purchase the components for the pre-sold projects plus a few extras. The cost will be \$50 in advance, or \$60 for any available kits on the day

of the project.

The antenna kit will not include coaxial cable, but we will provide a list of suggested cables and vendors with the kit.

N6AJS will provide a PayPal invoice. The deadline for advance purchase will be April 7.

☐ **Dream to Reality raffle** — We are still wrangling with the State DOJ on required forms.

☐ **Electronic Flea Market** — PAARA will sponsor the EFM on May 19th (postponed one week due to Mothers' Day) The board voted to approve payment of the ASVARO Electronics Flea Market invoice for \$1000.

☐ **Home Brew Night** will be at the April PAARA meeting.

The board agreed to award all participants with a \$5.00 Starbucks gift card, rather than awarding prizes to the top projects.

☐ **PAARA board mailing list** — We have moved the board mailing list to groups.io, this is working well.

☐ **Future meeting dates** were agreed to:

- 2024: September 6, October 4, November 1, and December 6
- 2025: January 3, February 7, March 7, April 4, May 2, June 6, July 11, and August 1

☐ **Insurance** — PAARA's liability insurance policy is up for renewal. Amba, our current carrier is no longer offering General Liability insurance. The board decided to obtain quotes from Philadelphia Insurance Companies, and from the ARRL's provider Risk Strategies.

☐ **Suggested Article** — We received an inquiry from QST Editor Leanna Figlewski, KC1RMP. She suggested an article on PAARA's work with disabled hams, for the "Club Station" column. KG6LWE Doug volunteered to pen this article.

☐ **The meeting** was adjourned at 9:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted  
 Ric Hulett N6AJS

**Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association, Inc.**

PO Box 911 Menlo Park, CA 94026

**Officers**

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 thielem@pacbell.net  
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**Appointed Positions**

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**VE Exams**

De Anza Park, Sunnyvale, 2nd Saturday 10:30 am each month except November and December. See website for details and exceptions: <http://amateur-radio.org>

**Electronics Flea Market (ESM)**

Sponsorship: Association of Silicon Valley Amateur Radio Organizations (ASVARO)  
 The Electronics Flea Market is seeking a new location. Until that is resolved, the EFM is on hold. Website: <http://www.electronicfleamarket.com/>

**PAARA — Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association**

Meets 1<sup>st</sup> Friday 7:00pm each month at Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center; Net 145.230 - PL 100Hz Mondays at 8:30. See website at <http://www.paara.org>. For more information. contact: Joel Wilhite KD6W, [KD6W@ARRL.NET](mailto:KD6W@ARRL.NET), 650-325-8239

**FARS — Foothills Amateur Radio Society**

Meets 4<sup>th</sup> Friday each month at 7:00pm at Covington School, Los Altos. Website: <http://www.fars.k6va.org>

**NCDXC — Northern California DX Club**

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:00pm each month, Repeater for member info 147.360. Contact [president@ncdxc.org](mailto:president@ncdxc.org). Website: <http://ncdxc.org>. YouTube content: "The Northern California DX Club Official Channel". Cohost of the International DX Convention.

**The 50MHz & Up Group of Northern California**

This organization specializes in vhf + wak signal and microwave activities. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of each month. Time is usually 5pm for in person meetings, and 7pm for Zoom only meetings. In person meetings are held Sports Basement, 1177 Kern Ave, Sunnyvale. Always check the website, <http://50MhzandUp.org>, for correct information. Zoom information is also there.

**San Mateo Radio Club W6UQ.ORG**

Meets, 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday, January through November.  
 Tuesdays & Thursdays, [Directed] Net, 7pm, N6ZX 145.370Hz, -600KHz, PL107.2Hz  
 Contact: [SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com](mailto:SanMateoRadioClub@gmail.com), Website: <http://W6UQ.org/calendar>

**SPECS**

**Southern Peninsula Emergency Communication System users Group**

Meets each Monday 7:30pm and 8:00pm.  
 See: <https://specsnet.org/monday-night-net> for more info.  
 Contact: <https://www.specsnet.org/contact> or [board@specsnet.org](mailto:board@specsnet.org)

**SCARES**

**South County Amateur Radio Emergency Service**

Meets 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday 7:30pm each month, Belmont EOC, Belmont City Hall, One Twin Pines Lane, Belmont CA 94002. Net is on 146.445 [PL 114.8] & 444.50 (PL-100) 7:30 Monday evenings. Contact: President Gary D. Aden, K6GDA 650-743-1265 (D), 650- 595-5590 (N)  
 Web: <http://k6mpn.org> E-mail: [pres@k6mpn.org](mailto:pres@k6mpn.org)

**SCCARA**

**Santa Clara County Amateur Radio Association**

Operates W6UU & W6UU/R, repeater 146.985-pl  
 Nets: 2m, 7:30pm Mon; 70cm, 10M (28.385) 8PM Thur.  
 Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> Mon each month @ 7:30 PM.  
 ARRL/VEC license testing contact 408-507-4698

**SVECS — Silicon Valley Emergency Communications**

Operates AA6BT repeater (146.115 MHz+)  
 Website: <http://www.svecs.net> or contact: Lou Stierer WA6QYS 408 241 7999

**WVARA — West Valley Amateur Radio Association**

W6PIY six-meter repeater on 52.58MHz. Normally, six-meters is linked with 147 and 223, while 441 and 1286 repeaters are linked.

VHF: 52.58 (-500) 151.4 ctcss UHF: 441.35 (+5.0) 88.5 ctcss  
 147.39 (+600) 151.4 ctcss 223.96 (+1.6) 156.7 ctcss 1286.20 (-12m) 100.0 ctcss

Meetings are 2nd Wednesday of every month except July, August and December.

Website: <http://wvara.org>. Contact: [info@wvara.org](mailto:info@wvara.org)

(Please send changes to [PAARAgaphs editor](mailto:PAARAgaphs editor))



### PAARA Weekly Radio Net

Info and Swap Session  
 every Monday evening at 8:30pm  
 on the N6NFI 145.230 MHz repeater

#### Week Control Operator

1 <sup>st</sup>	Doug - KG6LWE
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Doug - KG6LWE
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Ric - N6AJS
4 <sup>th</sup>	Rob - KC6TYD
5 <sup>th</sup>	Rob - KC6TYD

If you're interested in trying out at Net Control, Contact Doug, KG6LWE. It's good practice, and lots o' fun! Give it a try.

**Meeting Location — Middlefield Road  
 between San Antonio and Charleston in Palo Alto. 4000 Middlefield Road**

### Tribulations about moving?

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**KARL DRESDEN**, R.E.# DRE 00525686

KJ6GUK General License, PAARA member

777 Woodside Rd., Suite B, Redwood City, CA 94061

**Email:** KARLDRESDEN@juno.com

### Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park California 94026-0911

Club meetings are on the first Friday of each month, 7:00pm at the Room H-6, Cubberley Community Center.

Radio NET & Swap Session every Monday evening, at 8:30pm, on the 145.230 –600 MHz repeater, PL 100Hz.

Membership in PAARA is \$25.00 per calendar year, which includes one subscription to PAARAgaphs \$6 for each additional family member (no newsletter).

Make payment to the  
 Palo Alto Amateur Radio Association,  
 P.O. Box 911, Menlo Park, CA 94026-0911

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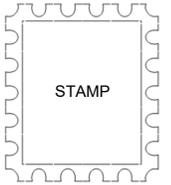
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